

THE NET.

By REX BEACH.

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CHAPTER III.—Continued.

"Welcome!" she said, in a voice as low pitched as a "cello" string, and her lover smiled delightedly at the emotion he saw leap up in Norvin's face. That young man was quite unconscious of Martel's espionage—unconscious of everything, in fact, save the splendid creature who stood smiling at him as if she had known him all her days. His first impression—that she was all golden, all gleaming like a flame, did not leave him, for the same warm tints that were in her hair were likewise present in her cheeks, her neck, her hands. It was like the hue which underlies old ivory. Her skin was clear and of unusual pallor, yet it seemed to radiate warmth. Her eyes were richly red and as fresh as a half-opened flower, affording the only contrast to that puzzling radiance. Her unusual effect was due as much perhaps to the color of her eyes as to her hair and skin, for while they were really of an opal in their depths, her brows were dark and met above a finely chiseled nose. Her lips, however, had not been prepared for such a vision, and a sort of panic robbed him of speech.

But the moment of greeting was soon over, and the lovers fell to chattering of the wedding preparations. "It was very good of you to come so long a way," said the countess, at last, turning to the American. "Martel had told us all about you and about your adventures together."

"Not at all," cried Savigno, lightly. "We have pasts, I assure you."

"Martel tries so hard to impress us with his wickedness that he almost explained. But we know him to be jesting. Perhaps you will find him here before us."

"I shall do nothing of the sort," Blake laughed. "Who am I to rob him of a delightfully wicked past, upon which he can pretend to look back in his old age? It is the only past he will ever have, so why spoil it for him? On the contrary, I am prepared to lend him a hand and to start him off with a list of damning disclosures which will require years to live down."

"Pray begin," urged the countess, with an air of intense satisfaction. "Oh! he hesitates. Then I shall begin for him, the first place, Margherita, he recently declares that I love your riches."

The countess joined in the laughter at this, and Norvin could only say: "You shouldn't place the least dependence in the words of a man's best friend under such conditions, for he covers his chair at losing a comrade by a display of pessimism which he doesn't really feel."

Miss Gini's glance filled him with a most disturbing self-consciousness, and he was relieved when the lovers were once more occupied with each other. It was some time later that the countess addressed her aunt, excitedly: "Listen! What do you think of this? This man? The authorities will not admit poor Paolo to bail, and he is still in prison."

"Poor fellow!" cried the Donna Teresa. "It is La Mafia."

"It is better for him to remain where he is," Martel said. "He is at least safe for the time being."

"Safe from what?" asked Blake. "Safe from the friends of the man he shot?"

"Safe also from Gini's wife," the countess added. "She will doubtless kill him as soon as he leaves the prison. She will demand blood to wash her blood."

"You sympathize with her?" asked Martel. "Deeply. I am not sorry her husband was killed, but a wife has rights."

"You evidently believe in the vendetta," Norvin laughed. "Who does not? The law is full of tricks. There is a saying which runs, 'The gallows for the poor, justice for the foot!'"

"You are a Mafia!" cried the scandalized aunt. "It is one of Alandro's sayings. He has lived a life. He often tells me stories."

"Alandro is a terrible liar," Martel declared. "I fear his adventures are much like his rhetoric."

"You do not expect a reckoning from your enemies in America?" queried Margherita.

"Oh, we do, but not with quite so much enthusiasm as you do. We have some outlaws, to be sure, like your notorious Belisario Card—"

"Cardi is but a name," said the girl. "He does not exist."

Interpreting a warning glance from Martel, Blake said no more, and the talk drifted to more agreeable subjects. The guest was beginning to feel quite at ease, when the count jumped up suddenly and said:

"I must go to the village. The baker, the confectioner, the butcher—all have many things to prepare for the festa, and I must order the fireworks from Messina. Norvin will remain here while Riccardo and I complete the arrangements. I tell you it will be a celebration to awaken the countryside. For an hour, I shall add to the list of the guests."

"She is a little thing," said the Donna Teresa, fondly. "It is like a child."

There was a wonderful afternoon for Blake. Margherita Gini took him into her confidence without the slightest reserve. There was no pretense of getting acquainted; it was as if they had known each other for a lifetime. He never expected so much from a girl, and he never grew ever more eager for her voice. Martel made no secret of his delight at their instantaneous liking. For an hour, the dinner that evening was the zestiest that had brightened Terranova for years.

As much as the ride to San Sebastiano was long, the young men were forced to leave early, but they were scarcely out of the city before Martel drew his arm in beside Norvin's, and, laying a hand upon his friend's arm, inquired, breathlessly: "Well! Come to rather of mine? You know I perish of eagerness. What have you to say? The truth, between man and man?"

Blake answered him with an odd hesitation. "You must know without asking. There's nothing to say—except that she is like a golden flame. She sets one afire. She is different—wonderful. I—"

"Exactly!" Savigno laughed with keen contentment. "There is no other."

When Blake retired that night it was not to sleep at once, for he was troubled by a growing fear of himself that would not be lightly put aside.

W. B. MOSES & SONS

Accommodation Accounts Opened at Small Advance on Prices

SEPT. FURNITURE SALE

Open Every Day Until 6 O'Clock.

LIBRARY TABLES

In Mahogany.

Beautiful to look at. Built to last a lifetime and longer. In best art designs.

Were.	Now.
\$28.00	\$25.00
27.50	19.85
19.00	15.00
29.50	26.00
42.00	37.00
47.00	40.00
48.00	39.50

The Reason Why

Washington is not regarded in the commercial world as one of the big marketing centers. And yet we can and do undersell the "big markets," for the simple reason that we can buy from the factories cheaper than they.

Why is this? Because the factories cannot afford to demoralize the markets of the larger cities by flooding them with their "end-of-season" output, which has to set the pace for bargains. We take advantage of this condition to stock up for this September Sale. The factories need the money, and we need the goods for our large and constantly growing patronage.

The merchant who underbuys the market is in the best position to undersell.

Davenport and Sofas

In Mahogany.

Comfort and beauty are well blended in the construction of these elegant pieces.

Were.	Now.
\$42.50	\$38.00
70.00	63.00
92.00	78.50
84.00	76.00
100.00	90.00
115.00	100.00
140.00	112.50

SEPT. FURNITURE SALE

Open Every Day Until 6 O'Clock.

Household Linens---Friday Specials

Wonderful Bargains in Reliable Goods

50 dozen Irish Bleached Damask Napkins, 22 inches square. Were \$3.00. Now.....	\$2.50
25 dozen Scotch Bleached Damask Napkins, extra heavy quality, 24 inches square. Were \$3.50. Now.....	\$2.70
50 dozen Extra Fine Bleached Damask Napkins, new line of designs, 24 in. square. Were \$4.00. Now.....	\$3.50
50 dozen Bleached German Damask Napkins, new patterns, soft finish, 22 in. square. Were \$3.50. Now.....	\$2.90
100 Extra Fine Full Bleached Damask Pattern Cloths, in a wide range of choice patterns. Best value ever shown at the price.	Now.....
2 yards by 2 yards.....	\$2.50 \$2.00
2 yards by 2 1/2 yards.....	3.13 2.50
2 yards by 3 yards.....	3.75 3.00
Napkins to match.	
25 dozen Fine Bleached Damask Napkins, rich quality, stripe pattern, 22 in. square. Were \$4.00. Now.....	\$3.50
Extra Heavy Turkish Bath Towels, double thread, 23x45 inches. Were 25c. Now.....	25c
50 Extra Heavy Bath Mats, in pink, blue, green and drab, 24x42 inches. Were 75c. Now.....	50c
10 dozen 22x42 Extra Fine Mercerized Turkish Bath Towels, in pink and blue borders. Were 75c. Now.....	50c
15 dozen Extra Heavy Turkish Bath Towels, pure linen, colors natural and white. Size 24x42. Were 75c. Now.....	50c
35 doz. Fine Bleached Huck Towels. Size 20x40. Were 37 1/2c. Now.....	25c
15 dozen Fine Bleached Huck Guest Towels, hemstitched ends, new range of patterns. Size 14x22. Were 37 1/2c. Now.....	25c
45 dozen Hemstitched Fish-eye Damask Towels. Were 31c. Now.....	25c
10 dozen Hand-embroidered Guest Towels, fine quality. Were 75c. Now.....	50c
Bleached Huck Guest Towels, hemstitched ends, Greek key border, 14x22 inches. Were 25c. Now.....	18c
18x36-in. Bleached Huck Towels, half linen. Were 18c. Now.....	12 1/2c

50,000 Yards of Fine Carpets

Under Usual Auction Prices in This Sale

At this time we dispose of the remainder of our Carpet stocks of the season with no regard for anything except the necessity we are under of securing space for our new fall and winter stocks. New patterns and designs have superseded those of the past season, and we now give you the opportunity to buy at these reductions, though their quality is the best, as a result of these conditions. You can buy now and have goods delivered when wanted.

Royal Wilton Carpets.

The finest grade of carpet made. A beautiful line of designs.

Regular Value.	Now.
\$3.50	\$2.00

Royal Plush Wiltons.

Suitable for library, dining rooms or halls and stairs.

Reg. Value.	Now.
20 patterns.....	\$2.00 \$1.37 1/2
10 patterns.....	\$2.00 \$1.22 1/2
From 15 to 35 yards.....	\$2.00 \$1.00

Wilton Velvets.

The old-fashioned kind, suitable for any room. All the popular colors.

Regular Value.	Now.
\$1.50	92 1/2c

Bigelow Axminsters.

The much-desired Persian patterns, in soft color combinations, prettier this season than ever.

Regular Value.	Now.
\$1.90	\$1.27 1/2

Wool Velvets.

Over 2,000 yards, embracing 20 beautiful designs.

Reg. Value.	Now.	Reg. Value.	Now.
\$1.25	79c	\$1.25	69c

Moresque Axminsters.

For halls and stairs. Fine for hard wear.

Regular Value.	Now.
\$1.50	75c



This \$38.00

Genuine Mahogany

BUREAU Reduced to

\$30.60

French Bevel Mirror.

\$36.00 Chiffonier to

match at \$29.00.

\$26.00 Toilet Table to

match at \$20.00.

Upholstered Chairs and

Rockers

All desirable and attractive pieces, never before available at such small cost. Large choice of styles and materials.

WERE.	NOW.	WERE.	NOW.	WERE.	NOW.
\$16.00	\$12.00	\$21.50	\$18.00	\$9.00	\$8.25
20.00	10.00	22.50	19.00	16.00	12.00
32.00	27.80	25.00	22.50	21.00	17.00
37.00	34.00	32.50	29.00	27.50	22.50
49.00	42.50	37.00	33.50	30.00	27.00
65.00	52.00	40.00	34.00	34.00	30.00
92.00	69.00	42.00	35.00	35.00	30.50

This \$27.50 Genuine

Mahogany

Library Table

Reduced to

\$19.85

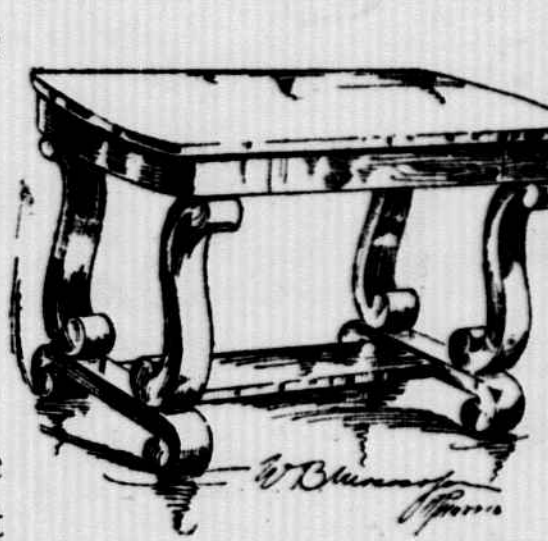
The best table we have

ever been able to sell at

such a price. Large

drawer; top 27x48 inches.

Only fifteen of these.



Others in choicest designs and finest workmanship at similar reductions.



This \$26

Dressing Table

Genuine

Mahogany

at \$20.00

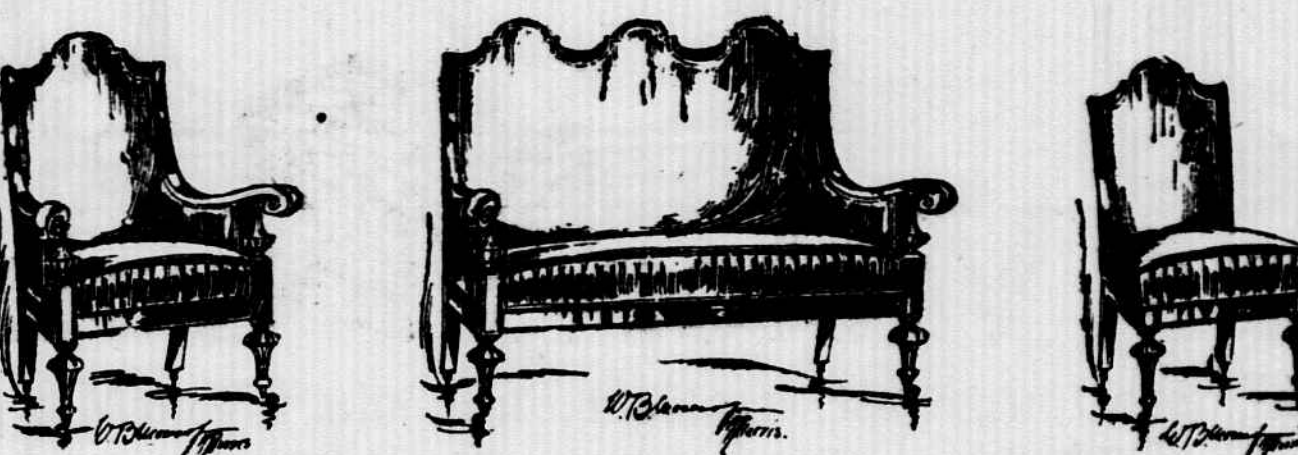
Chiffonier to

match, \$29.00.

Dresser to match,

\$30.60.

Mahogany Colonial Parlor Suites



This 3-pc. Mahog. Parlor Suite, Colonial Design, in Green Silk Plush.

\$120 Reduced to \$55

MANY OTHERS EQUALLY REDUCED.

This \$7 Solid

Mahogany

DINING CHAIR

Reduced to

\$4.35

We took all the

factory had—supply

limited.

\$15.50 Armchairs to

match at \$9.00.



WED AFTER TWENTY YEARS.

Mining Engineer and Widow Mary in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, September 5.—After waiting twenty years for her to consent to wed him, Hercules A. De Rudio, a mining engineer of Los Angeles, Cal., yesterday appeared at the office of Magistrate Joseph S. Boyle, 20th street and Lancaster avenue, with Mrs. Anna L. Pharo, a pretty widow, and asked him to marry them.

Mrs. Pharo, who lives at 5011 Lansdowne avenue, Philadelphia, has been a widow for fourteen years. When she was seventeen De Rudio, who is now forty years old, asked her to marry him. When she declined he told her he would remain unwed unless she consented. He went west, and thirty-two years later he heard that she was a widow and started his second courtship, this time with success.

De Rudio will leave today for Rio

HOTEL EMPLOYEES WIN.

Two Big Boston Hoteliers Advance Wages 15 Per Cent.

BOSTON, September 5.—The campaign for the increase of wages and better working conditions for hotel employees in Boston has been advanced by the agreement of two big hotels to grant a 15 per cent increase in wages and other concessions.

The campaign started a week ago when a threatened strike at one of the leading hotels resulted in an advance in wages, which has been followed by other smaller concerns.

RADFORD AT TRENTON RIVER.

American Explorer Finds Big Herd of Wild Buffaloes.

WINNIPEG, Man., September 5.—Harry Radford, the American explorer, who left Edmonton, Alberta, three years ago for the north country, reached Trenton river last winter, and has been hunting there this summer, according to word just received by the Hudson Bay Company. News of his arrival at the bay across the barren lands was the first that has been heard from Radford in more than a year.

Radford says there are more than 300 wild buffaloes in the Slave lake district in the Hudson bay country. He says they are well protected and there is every reason to believe they will multiply rapidly.

The Indians, he says, guard the animals and will not allow them to be shot.

RESIST TAX COLLECTION.

Kentucky Railroads to Fight Increased Franchise Assessments.

FRANKFORT, Ky., September 5.—At a conference of railroad officials here yesterday it was determined, on the part of some of the companies, to resist the collection of taxes on the increased franchise assessments fixed by the state board of valuation and assessment on August 31, according to a report here today. The method of resistance decided upon was not intimated.

The increased assessments on franchises of railroads, express companies and traction companies in the state amount to \$100,000,000, and would net the state \$300,000 additional revenue. It is estimated that if the roads resist the increase, as now seems certain, an extra session of the legislature may be called to provide for revenue and to consider a stringent public utilities bill.

William Mailly Dead, Aged 41.

NEW YORK, September 5.—William Mailly, who, in 1903 and 1904 was national secretary of the socialist party and for several months past associate editor of the Metropolitan Magazine, is dead at his home here of diabetes, aged forty-one years.

ACCUSED OF EXTORTION.

Congress Candidate and Evangelist Held on Woman's Charge.

NEW YORK, September 5.—Percy L. Davis, an alderman and republican primary candidate for Congress, and Eben J. Owens, an evangelist, are under arrest here today charged with extortion. They

FOUND HIDDEN IN WOODS.

Young Man and Woman Held for Slaying Latter's Husband.

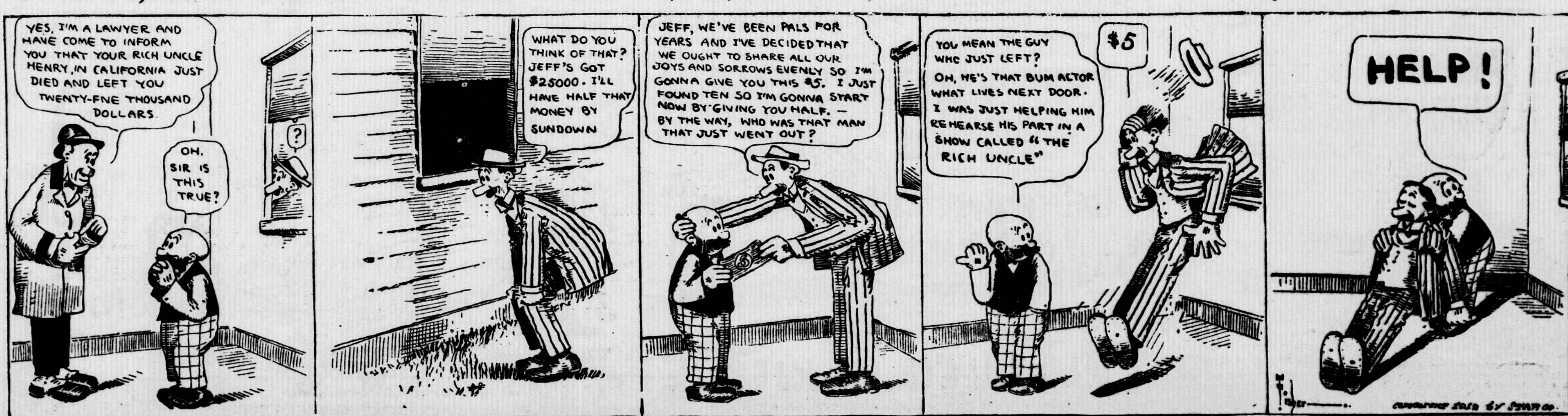
EAST LIVERPOOL, Ohio, September 5.—After having hidden for two days and a night in the woods about ten miles north of here, John Coburn, twenty-one, and Mrs. Mary Burrows, thirty-five, were arrested and brought to this place. They are charged with the murder of Richard Burrows, the woman's husband.

Burrows, a wealthy contractor, was killed Monday night. His body, with one head crushed in and a bullet through the heart, was found next day. Coburn and Mrs. Burrows were missing, and a search for them was started.

A search of Burrows' house showed bloody clothing and shoes in the furnace. A heavy cane clogged with blood was also found.

Well, It Was a Good Bet at That---\$25,000 to \$5

-o- -o- By "Bud" Fisher



CHAPTER IV.

The Feast at Terranova.

During the next few days Norvin Blake saw much of the Countess Margherita, for every afternoon he and Martel rode to Terranova. The preparations for the wedding neared completion, and the consciousness of a coming celebration had penetrated the countryside. Among all who looked forward to the big event, perhaps the one who watched the hours fly with the greatest degree of suspense was the American. He had half feared the truth that night after his first meeting with the girl, and the succeeding days enforced the conviction he would have been glad to escape. He could no longer doubt that he was in love with his best friend's niece. Every decent instinct commanded him to untie the knot of his feelings, but his first serious soul-conflict he possessed more than average self-control, and he managed to conceal his feelings so well that Martel, who was the embodiment of loyalty and generosity, never for a moment suspected